

District V Advisory Board Minutes
December 3, 2001
www.wichitagov.org

The District V Advisory Board meeting was held at 7:00 p.m. at the Auburn Hills Golf Course Clubhouse at 335 S. 135th Street West. In attendance were the District V City Council Member, ten (10) District Advisory Board Members including three (3) youth members, thirteen (13) City staff, and three (3) citizens.

Members Present

David Almes
Bob Bulman
David Dennis
Maurice Ediger
Andy Johnson
Teresa Schmidt
Brendon Groves
Debbie Scrafford
Christina Kroselecky
Council Member Bob Martz

Members Absent

Sean Cash
Margarita Farelle-Hunt
Bob Sorenson
Fran Hoggatt

Staff

Norman Williams, Police Chief
Steve Cole, Deputy Police Chief
Alan Wolf, Police
Officer Bob Ahsens, Police
Officer Clark Bolan, Police
Officer Phil Smith, Police
Steve Lackey, Public Works Director
Doug Kupper, Parks & Recreation Director
David Warren, Water Department Director
Rob Younkin, Water Department
Jay Newton, Finance Department
Matt Jordan, City Manager's Office
Dana Brown, City Manager's Office

Guests

Betty M. Ludwig, 406 N. Jaax Court
George Walta, 10630 Carr
William Moore, 162 S. Forestview Court

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Call to Order

Council Member Martz called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m., explaining the purpose of the District V Advisory Board as community advisors to the District V City Council Member. He further explained that although he chairs the Board meetings, the actions taken by the Board do not include a vote by him, even in the case of a tie. He stated that his opportunity to vote occurs at the City Council meetings and that he considers the feedback of the Board for his vote. He advised the public that the meeting provides them with an opportunity to voice their opinion on City issues. He asked that the public attending the meeting conduct themselves with the same appropriate behavior that is expected in the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 5, 2001 meeting were approved 6:0.

(Bob Bulman arrived.)

Approval of the Agenda

Council Member Martz asked if any agenda changes were needed. With none noted, agenda was approved.

Public Agenda

Scheduled Items

No items had been previously scheduled for the public agenda.

Off-agenda items

George Walta, 10630 Carr Street, asked if Hoover Road could be treated with a substance to reduce the amount of dust from traffic. He stated that he had traveled another unpaved road that didn't appear to create dust from traffic like Hoover. **Council Member Martz** said he wasn't aware of any treatment but he would ask staff about it.

Staff Presentations

3. Police Department Presentation

Norman Williams, Chief of the Police Department, presented information about the mission of the department and how the values of ethical behavior, protecting the community, diversity, and problem solving are integral to the mission as well as important to the public. Chief Williams provided a handout to help explain the department organization of three divisions including administration/support services, field services, and investigative services.

He noted that the Community Policing program is reflective of the current mission statement through recognition for the value of partnering with citizens to achieve public safety. Williams explained that community policing was actually a philosophical approach utilized by all department divisions, an outcome of the Neighborhood Initiative begun in 1993. Williams noted a recent change for the department with the development of a Professional Standards Bureau, which compliments the mission statement and the community policing philosophy. The Bureau focuses on building trust within the department and with the community through handling internal and external compliments and complaints. Williams acknowledged that many times an incident associated with a complaint is in direct association with the job stress for police officers. A counselor is available to help officers work through the stress and a team approach is used for debriefing officers involved in critical incidents.

Williams stated that the department had lost several officers in the past year due to career changes, new job, activation of National Guard troops, etc. In addition, the City has experienced growth, requiring more officers to cover the new areas. The City Council recently approved the addition of 11-14 new officer positions that Williams said should help with the needs.

Williams then introduced **Deputy Chief Steve Cole, Field Services Division**, who talked about several areas of emphasis. The first area was traffic. Cole explained that in March 2001, the division reorganized the traffic services by decentralizing officers from their assignments in an effort to cross-train officers and provide better coverage for traffic patrol demands. With the decentralization, officers assigned to other units have also been trained for traffic control. Cole also stated that during the month of December, citizens would hear about an extensive emphasis being placed on controlling

DUI (Driving Under the Influence) motorists. The emphasis will dovetail with efforts to ensure compliance with the seat belt law, especially for the protection of children, through a special grant received by the Department. A question was raised as to whether a motorist could be stopped for non-compliance with the seat belt law only to which Cole stated no; the driver may be stopped for a minor traffic violation and also be cited for not wearing their seat belt. Cole assured the audience that police officers are very aware of signals indicating that drivers and passengers are not wearing their seatbelts and the officers directly ask if the seat belt was fastened in place.

The second area of emphasis was revision of the pursuit policy. Cole stated that a task force of officers and citizens had examined the policy and made recommendations for revisions. The level of crime will now determine whether officers take the risk of pursuit, such as a broken window versus a homicide; and City police officers will no longer become involved in other policing chases, such as a pursuit initiated by the County Sheriff, or Kansas Highway Patrol.

The third issue of emphasis was racial profiling. Cole said that two studies are in process. He stated that the data for a local study has been collected and submitted to Wichita State University for analysis. The second study is being conducted by the state and collection of the data is underway. Cole looks forward to receiving the results of both studies as valuable information for how the Police Department conducts law enforcement procedures.

The fourth area was investigations. In 1999-2000, the Department applied the community policing philosophy to investigations by increasing the involvement of citizens. In an effort to assess how the police have worked with the public, a survey was conducted with over 600 citizens who had previous contact with the Police Department. From the information collected, certain units were redesigned to be more effective in working with citizens, such as the gang unit and the unsolved crimes unit, Cole said that this approach helped the Department become a finalist for an international award that considered the work of over 18,000 law enforcement agencies—the Webber-Seavey Award. The Department won this award in 1996 for the Neighborhood Initiative efforts with community policing.

Other issues were also addressed by Cole: beat realignments according to call load, creating additional beats that will be staffed by new officers currently in the police academy; and, staffing issues such as the abortion protests, River Festival, and traffic enforcement needs affecting the ability of community police to focus only on those efforts. Cole stated that citizens had expressed concerns that the community police officers were not as available as they had been previously but several efforts of involvement exist that people tend to forget—mentoring in schools, neighborhood cleanup, and graffiti removal. **Hunt** added to that list by naming the Weed and Seed program and special services for victims of rape. She also expressed a traffic-related concern at the traffic yield situation for cars driving west on West Kellogg Drive where Kellogg traffic merges at Ridge Road. **Cole** responded by saying that it might be good to address that situation with other creative means to get people's attention. At that time, Cole thanked everyone for their attention and support.

Chief Williams then explained the other divisions and the goals of the department. He also talked about the School Resource Officers stating that six (6) were located in high schools and fourteen (14) in middle schools. A federal grant paid for eight (8) of the officers. Williams invited everyone to access the department's website at www.wichitapolice.org. He then ended the presentation by pointing out that throughout the information presented tonight was a focus for the department to partner with

citizens, agencies, and organizations, noting that this effort was a strength that had earned Wichita the All-America City Awards.

Questions and comments from the Board included the following:

- **Bulman** expressed appreciation for the excellent presentation. He then asked if profiling was used properly, could it be helpful in some regard, such as criminal profiling? **Williams** stated that the department utilized criminal profiling through academia as a resource for developing suspect characteristics. But he noted that this was different than racial profiling where a particular person is targeted for a crime due to their race. Bulman acknowledged his understanding of the wrongdoing in that use.
- **Bulman** then added that he and Board Member Andy Johnson had participated in the survey conducted by Captain Jon Zumalt, Professional Standards Bureau, and said how impressed they were with the efforts.
- **Ediger** asked if portable signs could be used on Kellogg reminding people that they would be ticketed for violation of the seat belt law. **Cole** acknowledged it was a good idea but reminded the board that a primary violation must occur before a person can be ticketed for non-use of seat belts.
- **Bulman** asked if a driver could be ticketed if children were not wearing seat belt. **Sergeant Alan Wolf** said they could be if the child is under the age of four (4) years.
- **Johnson** complimented Williams and **Cole** on their presentation and supported Bulman's remarks regarding the professionalism exhibited by Captain Zumalt during the surveying. He also noted that his experience with Community Police had been positive and always included good customer service.
- **Dennis**, as a teacher at North High School, expressed thanks for the School Resource Officers assigned to that school. He stated that the values of the Wichita Police Department are critical to the community, especially the high regard for diversity.

Walta asked if the police had been responding to an increased number of incidents of explosives in mailboxes? He said that several had occurred on Hoover Road. **Williams** said he was unaware of an increase in this action but that it would be classified as vandalism, typically committed by youth.

With no other questions, **Council Member Martz** thanked the Police Department representatives for their presentation and the efforts continuously made for our community to be safe. He suggested that this was a good point in the agenda to hear the regular report from the Community Police Officers for District V and would allow them to return to their policing duties.

Action: Received and filed.

4. Community Police Report

Officer Ahsens, Community Police Officer for District V, then reported on specific concerns for the area. He stated that he is assigned to Beat #19 and is currently covering Beat #18 also as the regular officer assigned to that beat is currently on maternity leave. Officer Ahsens supported the earlier response by Chief Williams that vandalism is typically a youth offense, especially ages 16-20 year olds. He reported that reports of vandalism to mailboxes and cars had increased. Most of the acts take place in the evening from sunset to 2:00-3:00 a.m. Other recent concerns were related to paintballs

and associated issues. Ahsens said he was trying to arrange for publications directed to the west community include information regarding these concerns. He also said that he had been providing some assistance with traffic control at Peterson Elementary on West Central to ensure that children are safe in the crosswalks. **Kroselecky** stated that it is important that youth know they are breaking the law and citizens need to know they should report these acts. **Council Member Martz** suggested that Officer Ahsens get with the Neighborhood Assistant for District V to utilize the distribution list created for informing the residents about such issues. **Ahsens** also said that youth should be aware that if their actions result in over \$500 damage, a felony has been committed. **Council Member Martz** explained to Officer Ahsens that he had contacts sitting on this board for the three (3) area high schools of Northwest, Maize, and Bishop Carroll and that he could work with them to provide the students with this information. **Groves** asked if the acts appeared to be concentrated in any particular area. **Ahsens** responded that there were many sites with most all of them poorly lighted.

Bulman asked for more information about the traffic at Peterson Elementary. **Ediger**, a retired administrator for Wichita Public Schools, stated that this was an age-old problem with parents loading and loading the children at the school. **Steve Lackey, Public Works Director**, said that his Department is working with Peterson on better control of the traffic.

Council Member Martz expressed his appreciation to Officer Ahsens for attending and providing the information.

Action: Received and filed.

4. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)

Matt Jordan, Assistant to the City Manager, introduced himself as the presenter of an overview of the CIP projects for District V as well as the City staff accompanying him to answer any specific questions that the Board or public may have regarding a project. He introduced **Steve Lackey, Public Works Director; David Warren, Water & Sewer Director; Doug Kupper, Parks & Recreation Director; Rob Younkin, Water & Sewer; and Jay Newton, Finance**. **Jordan** first explained the process of developing the CIP including the following steps that involve public input:

1. City senior staff develop the program
2. Forwarded to City Manager
3. Manager forwards to City Council
4. Council members ask DABs to review
5. Planning Commission reviews
6. Goes back to Council to consider additional input for appropriate revisions and approve

Jordan stated that the CIP is a ten-year program including approximately \$1.6 billion. He explained the funding breakdown from the various sources. The prioritization of the projects is handled through a rating system. **Jordan** had previously provided handouts to the Board with a breakdown of District V projects and citywide projects.

Johnson asked what was considered in the rating system and **Jordan** said it was developed by the senior staff and included several elements. **Johnson** asked how public transit shelters were ranked, making a point that we are trying to encourage people to utilize the transportation system but not providing shelter at the bus stops. **Newton** stated that he believed funding for the shelters had been

designated through another funding source. **Hunt** asked when they would be built and **Newton** stated within the next five (5) years. **Kupper** stated that the shelters would be built soon because the 255 park benches installed at the bus stops had been offered to Parks & Recreation.

Groves asked if Jabara Airport would be provided with air traffic control? **Warren** stated that the airport would have full instrument landing control in the next five (5) years.

Almes noted the graph in the handout and asked how the upward trend in spending for the CIP projects will be funded without a tax increase. **Lackey** explained the ballooning on the graph as due to the Kellogg expansion that includes state and federal funding in addition to the local program. He said that the funding of the railway separation which includes funding from the railroads has also affected the graph. Lackey said that ten (10) mills is fairly consistent with approximately 17% of the ad valorem taxes being used.

Bulman asked how the ratings could not consider the arterials and a floodway bridge as higher priorities. **Lackey** said the Council would have to make the final determinations about if, where, and when on a bridge over the floodway. Some of the current factors affecting projects are the result of decisions made by the previous council. **Bulman** asked if the department directors were happy with the CIP to which **Kupper** said he definitely was happy. **Lackey** said he would like to see projects completed faster such as the railway separation and paving gravel roads. He said the proposed CIP was developed so that each district has beneficial projects—staff did the best they could with the resources available while also being fair to each department's priority projects. **Warren** added that the CIP is a consensus of department senior staff with a number of years of experience. He recognized that it is not perfect but the staff feels it's the best it can be with the resources available.

Council Member Martz asked to visit about the completion of landscaping for the Northwest Sewer Treatment Plant while department directors were available. He told them that DAB V had been identifying groups that might volunteer to help with planting this spring. He noted that Almes was working on arranging for high school student groups to help and Dennis was working with scouts. Council Member Martz asked Kupper about the similar approach at Auburn Hills Golf Course. **Kupper** said that Parks planted twice as many plants due to the volunteer help available. **Warren** stated that the grassroots efforts were critical to the completion of the project and the maintenance of the wetlands. **Bulman** asked Warren if available water would be an issue in the future to which **Warren** said no; several projects are planned for improved infrastructure to the year 2050.

Council Member Martz thanked the staff for their work and for being available to answer questions.

Dennis then asked how elimination of the police motorcycle patrol was justified when the helicopter services is expected to cost \$1.5 million. **Warren** stated that as a prior law enforcement officer, he could assure the air unit has capabilities that a ground unit did not. **Dennis** asked about maintenance cost for the helicopter. **Newton** said that the current model is more expensive to maintain than what a new helicopter would cost. He said that no local funding is used; a grant for special investigations for narcotics is used that also funds three (3) officer positions. **Council Member Martz** pointed out that the operating expenses are paid for out of the general budget while purchasing large equipment is typically paid for by the CIP. **Warren** added that staff is always looking at ways to minimize operating expense and utilize better technology. **Kupper** said that sometimes the CIP could reduce

operating expenses; one way is replacing older equipment that requires increased maintenance with newer equipment that is vandalism-proof, thus, reducing maintenance expense. Recycled park equipment is an example of the latter, **Kupper** said.

Jordan concluded by saying that even though Wichita has experienced increasing growth, citizens should keep in mind that the sales tax has remained the same. He thanked the Board for their interest and asked for a couple of weeks to provide answers to the specific questions.

Action: Received and filed.

Board Agenda

5. Update on Addressing Traffic Issues for Westport & Maize

Council Member Martz stated that this report would be postponed until more complete and detailed information could be provided.

Action: Item tabled until next meeting.

New Business

No new business.

Other

Updates, Issues, and Reports

District Advisory Board Members reported the following activities, events, or concerns in the neighborhoods and/or District:

Floodway Bridge

Bob Bulman, District V Representative on the Floodway Bridge Task Force organized by Council Member Fearey, provided a report from the last meeting at which Public Works staff had presented. He said that the committee heard Steve Lackey, Public Works Director, speak about the topic at the last meeting. According to Bulman, Lackey stated that a bridge was not necessary at this time. Discussion and questions followed including the dilemma of how to make up the funding needed for the railway separation corridor. Bulman said an opinion vote was taken with the following results: no bridge – 4 votes; 13th Street – 3 votes; 21st Street – 1 vote; and, 25th Street – 1 vote. Five (5) members did not vote for any of the options.

Questions and comments from other Board Members prompted **Council Member Martz** to explain that several approved or proposed City projects and their associated costs might be affecting the progress of determining a site for a bridge. First, he explained that an error was made in projecting the cost of the railway separation project and an additional \$20-25 million is still needed to accomplish the original plan. Secondly, the current plan for the continued expansion of East Kellogg is planned to stop at Greenwich Road. However, with the newly developed areas of growth beyond Greenwich,

additional funding may be required to continue the expansion beyond that point. In addition, the proposed River Corridor Improvement project is estimated to cost \$29.5 million. The Members discussed the pros and cons as well as the trade-offs of the projects. **Council Member Martz** stated that all of the identified projects were infrastructure except the River Corridor Improvements and even though he recognized that beautification was certainly important to Wichita, the infrastructure needs are a higher priority at this time.

Flood Control

Council Member Martz reported that Chris Carrier, Storm Water, is preparing for a public meeting early next year regarding the progress of the flood control plan. Notices will be sent once the date and place are determined.

Northwest By-Pass

Council Member Martz reported that the Kansas Department of Transportation held a meeting last week that was attended by Dave Almes and Bob Bulman as representatives of District V Advisory Board. Eleven (11) options were presented by KDOT but some did not consider planned City and County projects that may interfere with the route. The City and the County will present information regarding the routes in joint action to KDOT.

Other

Andy Johnson expressed concerns again with how funeral escorts aggressively utilize the on-coming traffic lanes, creating a hazard for on-coming motorists. He acknowledged and fully supported the courtesy action of vehicles pulling over to stop when approaching a funeral procession but said that in reality, not everyone does this. **Council Member Martz** said that the County regulated the service providers who act as escorts for funerals. He said that he is one of the City Council Members who meet on a weekly basis with designated County Commissioners as part of Compact 2000. During this meeting they discuss concerns and issues such as this and he would take it to the next meeting in January.

Action: Council Member Martz will follow up.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board V will be January 7, 2002 at Auburn Hills Clubhouse at 7:00 p.m.

With no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dana L. Brown,
District V Neighborhood Assistant